

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
December 15, 2010

Present: Stoddard (chair), Lennon, Hultgren (staff), Walton (staff)

The meeting began at 5:16pm.

The minutes of the November 17, 2010 meeting were approved with one correction in the spelling of ICLEI.

Walton reported that the Energy Education Team met with the Neighbor to Neighbor organizers to begin contacting Mansfield agencies/organizations that will potentially be partners in the Neighbor to Neighbor energy challenge. The anticipated launch of the program is either February or March when the website will be unveiled. The Sustainability Committee agreed to be a Neighbor to Neighbor energy challenge partner.

Hart reported that he and the Director of Finance, Cherie Trahan, will be meeting with Sam and Michelle Shifrin to discuss the purchase of electricity generated from the Kirby Mill hydro project. Although the Town is mid term in a five year electric energy contract, they will discuss the purchase of renewable energy credits in the interim.

The committee continued its discussion of priorities, by focusing on the economic sustainability category. Hultgren stated that economic sustainability is one component of the triple bottom line, which includes social equity, ecology and economy. Priorities under economic sustainability were identified as follows:

- Promote an understanding of sustainability that includes ecology, equity and economics
- Sustainable Town wide economic strategies that builds on the unique attributes of the community
- Storrs Center
- Four Corners
- Town wide

The five broad categories of (1) staffing, (2) gathering data/informed planning, (3) raising public awareness and educating residents, (4) engaging and participating in Town projects and issues and (5) economic sustainability will be added to the draft progress report for the Town Council and e-mailed to the committee before the January meeting. It is hoped that at the January meeting, the report to Town Council will be finalized.

Hultgren suggested that the sustainability committee meet with the Four Corners Advisory Committee before they go to the Planning and Zoning Commission with design guidelines in order to promote an understanding of the triple bottom line of economic sustainability. Stoddard and Lennon stated that they are available to attend the January 11, 2011 Four Corners Advisory Committee meeting to begin a dialogue about economic

strategies that build on the unique attributes of the community. Hultgren will contact the committee chair to include them on the meeting agenda.

Walton reported that the intermodal center and parking structure are in the beginning of their design phase. According to the design team, the intermodal center could serve as an architectural focal point in the Downtown. Walton suggested that while there is the opportunity, the Sustainability Committee could advocate for prominent sustainable features in the design of the intermodal center. The committee will send a letter to Cynthia vanZelm, the Downtown Partnership Director, offering assistance in making the Downtown a model sustainable development.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2011. Stoddard will call members to see if 5 pm is a better time to meet than 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton